

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AF-06 OPIC-03 SAM-01 SY-05 USSS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4220

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LISBON 5342

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, PO

SUBJ: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

SUMMARY: GROUP HEADED BY CAPT LOURENCO IS WORKING ON AFM RESTRUC-
TURING PLAN WHICH WOULD PRODUCE ANTI-COMMUNIST MAJORITY IN AFM
ASSEMBLY, RESULT IN RETURN TO REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL (RC) OF VITOR
CRESPO, AND BREAK LEFTIST CONTROL OF NAVY. TWO INCIDENTS SEPT 10
POINT UP INCREASING DETERIORATION OF DISCIPLINE WITHIN ARMY AND
ARE LIKELY TO CALL FORTH STRONG RESPONSE FROM ARMY CHIEF FABIAO.
PROTESTS CONTINUE TO MOUNT AGAINST NEW PRESS REGULATIONS ORDERED
BY RC. RC MEMBER SOUSA E CASTRO, IN PARIS INTERVIEW, STRESSED
DEDICATION OF ANTUNES NINE TO CLOSE TIES WITH WEST AND NATO.
SPINOLA ACTIVITIES CONTINUE TO RECEIVE HEAVY PLAY AND ARE
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PROBABLY BEING USED BY PRESIDENT TO INSIST ON PCP PARTICIPATION

IN GOVERNMENT. RELEASE OF SENSITIVE J-5 REPORT ON MARCH 11
ATTEMPTED COUP HAS PRODUCED SHARP PRESIDENTIAL RESPONSE; RELEASE
HIGHLIGHTS GOP'S LEAKY SECURITY. FAR-LEFT UNITED REVOLUTIONARY
FRONT ISSUED ACTION MANIFESTO SEPT 10 REplete WITH FAMILIAR
THEMES. LOW KEY BUILDUP FOR OBSERVANCE OF SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF
OVERTHROW OF ALLENDE CONTRASTS WITH LAST YEAR'S MAJOR DEMON-
STRATIONS. END SUMMARY

1. REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL AND AFM ASSEMBLY RESTRUCTURING: NAMES
OF MEMBERS OF CAPT LOURENCO'S COMMITTEE TO RESTRUCTURE THE
REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL (RC) AND THE AFM ASSEMBLY MAY BE ANNOUNCED
TODAY. A LOW RANKING BUT USUALLY ACCURATE SOURCE IN THE ARMED
FORCES GENERAL STAFF SAYS THAT HE IS WORKING WITH A GROUP WHICH
INCLUDES LOURENCO THAT HAS COME UP WITH THE FOLLOWING PLAN.
-- NEW ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD FOR THE ARMY AND NAVY ASSEMBLIES.
AIR FORCE ASSEMBLY HAS ALREADY BEEN EFFECTIVELY RESTRUCTURED.
-- SERVICE ASSEMBLIES WILL ELECT NEW DELEGATES TO THE AFM ASSEMBLY.
-- AFM ASSEMBLY WILL ELECT THE NEW REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL FROM
SLATES.

2. EXPECTATION OF THE LOURENCO GROUP IS THAT RESTRUCTURING WILL
PRODUCE ANTI-COMMUNIST MAJORITY IN ASSEMBLY, AND THAT MAJORITY
WILL NOT ONLY ELIMINATE RC COMMUNIST-SYMPATHIZERS LIKE JUDAS AND
CORREIA, BUT WILL ALSO ENABLE THEM TO BRING BACK CRESPO. VOTING
BY SLATE MEANS THAT NAVY WILL NOT HAVE EXCLUSIVE CONTROL OVER
DESIGNATION OF ITS OWN RC CANDIDATES.

3. COMMENT: THIS IS A VERY OPTIMISTIC SCENARIO. IT DOES
SEEM LIKELY THAT LOURENCO WILL BE ABLE TO FORM A COMMITTEE WITH
AN ANTI-COMMUNIST MAJORITY. NEVERTHELESS, IT IS DIFFICULT TO
BELIEVE THAT THE COMMUNIST SYMPATHIZERS, PERHAPS WITH THE HELP
OF THE PRESIDENT AND FABIAO, BOTH OF WHOM PROFESS TO FEAR THE
LEFT, WILL NOT FORESTALL SUCH A CLEAR CUT VICTORY FOR THE ANTI-
COMMUNISTS. END COMMENT

4. DETERIORATING DISCIPLINE: TWO INCIDENTS SEPTEMBER 10 POINT
UP DETERIORATION OF DISCIPLINE WITHIN ARMED FORCES:
-- SUV DEMONSTRATION: 1,000 SOLDIERS BACKED BY ABOUT 3,000
CIVILIANS BELONGING TO WORKERS COUNCILS, NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS,
AND FAR-LEFT POLITICAL PARTIES PARTICIPATED IN OPORTO DEMONSTRA-
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TION CALLED BY "SOLDIERS UNITED WILL WIN" (SOLDADOS UNIDOS
VENCERAO - SUV). ORGANIZERS CLAIMED SOLDIER PARTICIPATION WOULD
HAVE BEEN HIGHER BUT SOME UNIT COMMANDERS HAD LOCKED TROOPS IN
BARRACKS TO PREVENT THEIR ATTENDING. A NUMBER OF SOLDIERS FROM
CENTRAL MILITARY REGION APPEARED AT DEMONSTRATION IN DISREGARD FOR
ORDERS TO CONTRARY. AMCONSUL OPORTO, ON SCENE, REPORTED THAT PRI-
MARY THEME OF DEMONSTRATION WAS "DOWN WITH OFFICERS. DOWN WITH
GENERALS." DEMONSTRATORS APPROVED BY ACCLAMATION MOTION CALLING

FOR "SOLDIER CONTROL" OF BARRACKS AND CREATION OF SOLDIERS COMMITTEES. TELEGRAM SENT TO NORTHERN MILITARY REGION COMMANDER CORVACHO BY ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF FABIAO IN WHICH DEMONSTRATION TERMED "COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY" WAS REPUDIATED.

-- MILITARY POLICE ASSEMBLY: IN LISBON, DELEGATES OF MILITARY POLICE REGIMENT IN AJUDA WHICH HAD BEEN CENSURED AND THREATENED WITH DISCIPLINARY MEASURES BY RC FOR ITS REFUSAL TO EMBARK FOR ANGOLA, VOTED TO REPUDIATE RC'S DECISIONS REGARDING MP UNITS AND BAN OF PRESS COVERAGE OF MILITARY ACTIVITIES. ASSEMBLY ALSO PASSED MOTION TO SUPPORT UNIT COMMANDERS, BUT WITH PROVISIO THAT, SINCE SOLDIERS ARE "TRUE REVOLUTIONARY CORE" OF UNITS, COMMANDERS SHOULD BE WILLING TO ACCEPT THEIR DIRECTION. LARGE DELEGATIONS FROM WORKERS COUNCILS AND NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS AND FAR LEFT PARTIES WHICH HAVE SUPPORTED MP'S POSITION ATTENDED ASSEMBLY MEETING.

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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5. PRESS "CENSORSHIP" ATTACKED, DISOBEYED: ALL SECTORS OF PRESS, RADIO, AND TELEVISION HAVE PUBLICLY REJECTED GOP'S EFFORT TO CURB POLITICALLY-ORIENTED NEWS GENERATED BY MILITARY INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS -- AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, SOME OF THEM HAVE PLAINLY DISOBEYED THE GOVERNMENT'S PROHIBITIONS. SEPT 11 EDITIONS OF COMMUNIST-LINING "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS" AND "O SECULO" CARRIED REPORTS ABOUT MILITARY POLICE DEFIANCE OF ORDERS TO EMBARK FOR ANGOLA SERVICE, AND ABOUT A PROTEST MEETING IN OPORTO IN WHICH MILITARY MEN WERE ACTIVE. PUBLICATION OF BOTH ITEMS WERE OBVIOUS EXAMPLES OF INTENTIONAL DISREGARD OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL'S PROHIBITION ANNOUNCED SEPT 8. A MEETING TO ORGANIZE A JOURNALISTS' FIGHT AGAINST THE LAW HAS BEEN CALLED FOR THIS AFTERNOON (SEPT 11) AT THE LEFTIST INDEPENDENT DAILY, "A CAPITAL."

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6. SOUSA E CASTRO COMMENTS: LISBON PRESS OF SEPT 9 REPORTED STATEMENT BY CAPTAIN SOUSA E CASTRO, A MEMBER OF THE ANTUNES NINE, TO "QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS" THAT THE NINE WILL CONDITION ITS COLLABORATION WITH NEW PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT ON THE MAINTENANCE OF IMPORTANT ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH THE WEST AND FUNDAMENTALLY ON PORTUGAL REMAINING IN NATO. SOUSA E CASTRO ALSO SAID THAT THE NINE WOULD INSIST ON A RETURN TO MILITARY DISCIPLINE AND A PURGE OF COMPROMISED MILITARY LEADERS (READ GONCALVES SUPPORTERS). SOUSA E CASTRO CHARACTERIZED HIS GROUP AS MODERATE IN THE PORTUGUESE CONTEXT, BUT TO THE LEFT OF THE PORTUGUESE SOCIALISTS.

7. SPINOLA ACTIVITIES: EVENING PRESS OF SEPT 10 CONTINUED ITS PROMINENT COVERAGE OF SPINOLA'S ACTIVITIES IN PARIS WITH FRONT-PAGE PICTURE OF SPINOLA AT WORK IN HIS HOTEL, AND SPECULATION THAT HE WILL CONTINUE ON TO LAUSANNE AND MADRID IN ORDER TO PREPARE HIS "INVASION" SEVERAL WEEKS FROM NOW. USUALLY RESPONSIBLE SOCIALIST DAILY "A LUTA" ON SEPT 10 REPORTED RUMOR THAT SPINOLA PLANNING UPRISING IN NORTH WHOSE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE IS TO SEIZE OPORTO. "A LUTA" WARNED THAT STORY MAY BE ATTEMPTS TO CONFUSE AND FURTHER DESTABILIZE PORTUGUESE POPULATION BUT NOTED PRESENCE OF SPINOLA IN PARIS AND AID PROFFERED HIM BY FRENCH GOVERNMENT LENT CREDENCE TO RUMOR. ONE ARTICLE DID QUOTE SPINOLA TO EFFECT THAT HE INTENDED TO RETURN TO BRAZIL IN SEVERAL DAYS.

8. CUF RALLY: "PROGRESSIVE" AFM OFFICERS USED FRIENDLY FORUM OF PLENARIO BY CUF WORKERS TO ATTACK RECENT MORE MODERATE LINE ADOPTED BY REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL. CDR ALBURQUERQUE OF MARINES SAID WORKERS WERE RIGHT IN THEIR COMPLAINTS ABOUT RECENT ACTIONS BY MEN WHO MADE APRIL 25 REVOLUTION. ANOTHER APRIL 25, HE SAID, WILL BRING THE FINAL VICTORY. ALBURQUERQUE CONCLUDED WITH AN APPEAL: "MOBILIZE YOURSELVES AND GATHER AT THE BARRACKS. THERE ARE STILL PEOPLE WITHIN THE AFM IN WHOM YOU CAN HAVE CONFIDENCE."

9. RC MEMBER CAPT RAMIRO CORREIA ALSO SPOKE TO THE GROUP IN SIMILAR IF LESS PROVOCATIVE TERMS. RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS, HE COMMENTED ON PREMATURELY-RELEASED CLASSIFIED J-5 REPORT ON THE EVENTS SURROUNDING THE MARCH 11 ATTEMPTED COUP (REFTEL). HE SAID ALL PORTUGUESE PEOPLE WOULD SOON RECEIVE "FULL SATISFACTION" ON MATTER. PRESIDENT RESPONDED TO GROWING CONTROVERSY OVER RELEASE IN STATEMENT ISSUED SEPT 10 CONDEMNING PUBLICATION AND STATING THAT INVESTIGATION WAS UNDERWAY AND THAT THOSE RESPONSIBLE WOULD BE PUNISHED.

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BLE WOULD BE PUNISHED.

10. UNITED REVOLUTIONARY FRONT MANIFESTO: THE UNITED REVOLUTIONARY FRONT (FRENTE DE UNIDADE REVOLUCIONARIA - FUR) RELEASED MANIFESTO SEPT 10. TWO PART DOCUMENT ENUMERATED GAINS MADE BY "THE RIGHT" IN RECENT WEEKS AND OUTLINED FOURTEEN-POINT PLAN OF ACTION FOR REVOLUTIONARY LEFT. INCLUDED AMONG POINTS ARE: IMPROVED CAPACITY FOR SELF-DEFENSE; PURGES AND REPRESSION OF "SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, FASCISTS, AND COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES;" FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY FOR MILITARY; "POPULAR JUSTICE;" ABOLITION OF CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY; WITHDRAWAL FROM NATO; SOLIDARITY WITH MPLA; AND PROLETARIAN CONTROL OF ECONOMY.

11. SOLIDARITY WITH CHILE: SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF OVERTHROW OF ALLENDE GOVERNMENT IN CHILE SEPT 12 WILL BE MARKED IN LISBON BY RALLY SPONSORED BY UDP AND FRAP, BOTH SMALL FAR LEFT GROUPS. PS HAS CALLED FOR FIVE-MINUTE PERIOD OF SILENCE, WITHOUT DISRUPTION OF NORMAL WORK, IN MEMORY OF ALLENDE. PCP AND OTHER LEFTIST PARTIES HAVE RELEASED SHORT COMMUNIQUE OBSERVING DATE.

12. COMMENT: CHALLENGES TO MILITARY DISCIPLINE BY TWO INCIDENTS REPORTED ABOVE CAN HARDLY GO UNANSWERED. RESTRUCTURED REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL AND ARMY CHIEF FABIAO IN PARTICULAR HAVE MADE RETURN OF DISCIPLINE A MAJOR ELEMENT ON THEIR PROGRAM. HARD DECISIONS ON MEANS FOR DEALING WITH THE PROBLEM MAY SOON BE FORTHCOMING.

13. WE EXPECT THE PRESIDENT IS USING THE SPINOLA THREAT AS A MEANS OF INSISTING ON COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN THE GOVERNMENT NOW BEING FORMED.

14. STRONG REACTION BY PRESIDENT TO CONTINUING CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING RELEASE OF CLASSIFIED J-5 DOCUMENT ON MARCH 11 EVENTS IS FURTHER REMINDER OF PORTUGAL'S LEAKY SECURITY.

15. LOW KEY BUILDUP FOR OBSERVANCE OF ANNIVERSARY OF ALLENDE OVERTHROW CONTRASTS SHARPLY WITH LAST YEAR'S MAJOR DEMONSTRATIONS. CARLUCCI

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